TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
INFORMATION ONLY

Non-Residential Organizations Receiving Non-Re-useable Donations

Date:	May 11, 2012
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Acting General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:2012/SWMS/May/007EC (AFS#15783)

SUMMARY

Charities that collect re-useable/donated items for redistribution to their clients or their retail store operations currently rely on the City to dispose of the items that are un-useable. This report addresses the request to identify the number of these organizations.

Solid Waste Management staff will work with other City Divisions such as Social Development and Revenue Services, and external stakeholders such as Social Planning Toronto and other large charitable organizations to consider developing an accurate "special category" list of charitable organizations, with a corresponding rate strategy, whose operations are based on the receipt of donated re-useable items. This information will be presented during the 2013 Budget process.

Financial Impact

There are no immediate financial impacts arising as a result of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Budget Committee at its meeting of May 7, 2012, as part of its consideration of the BU25.3 "Operating Variance Report for the year ending December 31, 2011", requested:

1. That Solid Waste Management Services report to the May 14, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting on the number of charitable organizations and locations

that accept items for re-use that will be subject to the new waste collection fees.

2. That the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services, examine for the 2013 Budget, any opportunity for a "special category" for those charities that receive donations that are not re-useable and are required to be disposed in the non-recycle stream of the City.

The Budget Committee Decision document can be viewed at:
http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=6405

City Council at its meeting on November 29, 30 and December 1, 2011, adopted among other things the following during its consideration of EX 13.2 **"**2012 Rate Supported Budgets - Solid Waste Management Services and Recommended 2012 Solid Waste Rates":

1) Implementation of a Non-Residential Rate Structure for eligible properties which are not limited to hospitals, libraries, places of worship, facilities which provide community support services, nursing/retirement homes, charitable organizations, and schools that are not otherwise captured by the school board rate;

2) Implementation of a tip fee for charitable organizations utilizing the City's Transfer Stations for disposal and recycling services (waste, recyclables, tires); and

3) That both rate structures (collection and tip fees) were approved based on the principle that the rates would be phased in over four years at 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of the City's Commercial Rates (existing bag/bin and a modified commercial cubic yard front-end rate) starting on July 1, 2012.

The City Council Decision document can be viewed at:
http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.EX13.2
http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=4422

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City currently provides collection to various charities that take in re-useable/donated items for redistribution to their clients or their retail store operations. They in turn rely on the City to manage the disposal of un-useable items from their donation programs. These organizations could include charitable shelters, drop-in centres, clothing banks, places of worship, out-of-the-cold programs and hot meal programs. Staff have been asked to report on the number of these organizations.

COMMENTS

Staff has estimated that approximately 1,100 organizations are subject to the new non-residential collection rate structure program. The majority of the identified eligible organizations included in this estimate have Federal charitable status. Included in this group are charitable organizations that receive donated re-useable items. These organizations could include charitable shelters, drop-in centres, clothing banks, places of worship, out-of-the-cold programs and hot meal programs which may or may not generate significant discards from their operations.

There are also approximately ten (10) large charitable organizations that manage retail stores/donation programs through the use of their own internal collection, sorting/distribution and transportation operations and directly drop off waste/recyclables at the City's Transfer Stations.

At this time, we cannot provide an accurate number of charitable organizations who receive donated items as part of their client service and rely on the City for Solid Waste Management Services. The reason for this is that it is difficult to distinguish those organizations that collect re-useable/donated items for distribution by reviewing the existing list of organizations and addresses that we collect from. Even though Solid Waste picks up their waste, we do not necessarily know whether they provide this service. For example, some churches offer out-of-the cold programs that we would not necessarily know about.

It is also necessary to establish whether an organization that redistributes donated items has waste of any significance as a result of the donations (e.g., a church may only hold a toy or clothing drive at Christmas). As well, some organizations are dynamic/transient in nature and may have closed or moved their operations.

In order to develop an accurate list of charities involved in the redistribution of donated items, Solid Waste Management Staff will solicit help and advice from other City divisions such as Social Development and Revenue Services, and external stakeholders such as Social Planning Toronto, United Way and other large charitable organizations whose primary operations is based on the receipt of donated re-useable items. Site visits will also be conducted. This list will be utilized to consider developing a "special category" for charities that receive donated re-useable items and depend on Solid Waste Management Services for disposal of discards. A "special category" and recommendations on a rate strategy for these organizations will be presented during the 2013 Budget Process and will include the financial implications to the City.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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